

# AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

**CITIZENS, MECHANICS, AND GUARDS,**

OF THE

**CITY OF RALEIGH,**

BY

**JAMES B. SHEPARD A. M.**

**JULY 4, 1839.**

---

**RALEIGH, N. C.**

Printed by T. Loring, at the Office of the North Carolina Standard.

~~~~~  
**1839.**

*Raleigh, 6th July, 1839.*

*James B. Shepard, Esq.*

SIR:—The undersigned have the pleasure of uniting with the citizens generally in requesting the favor of you to furnish a copy of the Oration delivered by you on the 4th, for publication.

With high considerations of respect

Your ob't ser'vts,

WM. F. COLLINS,

S. BIRDSALL,

J. G. MARSHALL,

*Committee.*

---

*To Messrs. Wm. F. Collins, S. Birdsall, and John G. Marshall—Committee.*

GENTLEMEN:—The gratifying assurances which I have received from every quarter, of the high value which has been placed upon my Address on the 4th inst. have made impressions upon the memory, not easily to be obliterated. Several days absence from the city, as well as the very short time given me to prepare any thing worthy of general approbation, had induced me to suppose that the Address would, like most others of a similar nature, fret its hour upon the stage, and then expire with the occasion which produced it. As you desire its publication, I see no alternative, and must therefore comply with your request. Permit me to thank you, gentlemen, for the very polite manner in which your wishes have been communicated.

With much esteem,

Your friend,

JAMES B. SHEPARD.

# AN ADDRESS,

Delivered in the City of Raleigh, 1839.

---

## SOLDIERS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS :

Among every people whose history hath been written or whose character and habits tradition hath disclosed, it has been thought wise and proper to institute festivals to keep alive the spirit of liberty. In this country every man is the arbiter of his own actions, and on questions of interest and importance decides according to his views of propriety and justice ; whereas under other systems the necessity of compliance with the dictates of a master, however absurd or unreasonable, forces men to become tools in the hands of the profligate or ambitious. It is indeed the great beauty of our system that merit is supposed to constitute the only passport to distinction ; that the poorest and most obscure, as well as the wealthiest citizen, may advance claims to the favor of his Government : even as the merry warbler of the morning, which constructeth its humble nest in the valley, wings its flight upwards as well as the Eagle which buildeth her eyry in the cliff. Had inclination alone been consulted, your speaker could have desired that some pencil more able had been selected to sketch the peculiar and solemn duties of this day. This is the second time, my friends, that a portion of my fellow-citizens have called upon me to address them on their national jubilee : once in my native town, and now by the enlightened citizens

77618  
81944

of this fair metropolis. This with a multiplicity of engagements in the ordinary business of a profession, would have bid me decline an invitation which I feel by no means competent to fulfil. Aware, however of the anxiety with which the duties of this occasion are regarded throughout our country; impressed with the important effects which may flow from their just and conscientious discharge; and most sincerely devoted to those noble principles which they are intended to commemorate and your gallant association to protect, I could not hesitate to accept the flattering call in compliance with which I appear before you. Within these walls, sacred to the evisceration of truth, we assemble not to kindle the torch of Alecto or minister to the gratification of bitter animosities: but shunning the discolored streams of party politics and the spiritless detail of the epic story of American freedom, I shall endeavor to impress upon your minds a few wholesome truths—truths, that may not indeed reach your ears clothed in all the fascinations of a windy rhetoric, nor perhaps recommended by a sterner eloquence; commanding your attention, however, by their own intrinsic value.

About the end of the fifteenth century, the restless and inquiring spirit of the age put in active operation those speculative opinions which resulted in the establishment of our Independence. It is a singular fact that not one European Government had ever yet in theory conceded to its subjects civil, much less religious liberty; and equally certain is it that the ancients had but a very dim conception of any such thing. The American revolution was therefore eminently a war of principle. It was long previous, however, to the close of the eighteenth

2212  
2212



century, that men had ceased to be governed by mere physical force ; the superior advantages and more cultivated intellects of modern time had much before then taught the great practical truth that all men are by nature equal. Resistance to taxation without representation was a doctrine nursed in the same vineyard with that which prompted HAMPDEN to resist the imposition of a trifling sum and with those which, in 1688, established the right of a people peaceably to assemble for the redress of grievances and by convention or otherwise remodel their Government. These positions, which now seem as clear as the brightness of the noon-day sun, or as undeniable as any axiom in the severer sciences, were once matter of doubt and conjecture. They are similar to many others which prove upon experience so unquestionable that we feel no little surprise at ever having indulged the least scepticism in regard to their truth. The courts of Europe, accustomed to the stupid flattery of those who sought personal distinction, to gratify avarice, vanity or ambition, were shocked to learn the existence of such bold doctrines across the broad Atlantic. The principles which had been acquiesced in for ages were brought to the test of reason by those productions which emanated from our ancestors, and which for strength of argument, beauty of diction, and simplicity of style, will stand a fair comparison with the best productions of Greece and Rome in their palmy days. Every device was resorted to for the purpose of deception, mean and paltry attempts made to evade the true questions at issue. But the daring occupants of the prairie, those who had endured every variety of hardship, those who had penetrated the most secret recesses of the ruthless Indian and conquered un-

aided and alone a wild and savage foe, were not thus to be deceived. Bold and fearless in the advocacy of human rights, they defied all the cruelties and torture which malice and ingenuity united with power were calculated to inflict. The dispute being stated in a simple and unpretending manner they appealed to facts, relied upon argument and enforced their conclusions with that sincerity which ever accompanies a conviction of the mind. Their petitions and remonstrances were treated with contempt, the chords of sympathy, brotherhood and mutual affection were touched to no purpose. The fell design of indiscriminate vengeance could not longer be concealed—our mother-land had resolved to make her children feel the weight of her mighty arm and crush at one stroke the rising spirit of rebellion. The prince and his parasites still cherished the fond belief of ultimate concession—they remained steadfast in their purpose and continued deaf to the voice of justice and humanity though sounded in their ears by the burning eloquence of a CHATHAM. The conduct of the British ministry at that time proves how strange a desire men have to seek power and lose liberty—to pursue a shadow and reject its substance. It was evident that for us there was but one alternative; either to submit or gallantly resist the invasion of our chartered privileges: and is there a human being within the compass of my voice, who dares claim the title of man and whose soul throbs with one generous emotion, that would not have hastened to the rescue of his country at a time of such imminent danger? It seemed necessary to seize our vantage ground, to lose not a moment when the people smarted under the measures of those who should have been foremost to protect and defend

them. Our peculiar situation, however, caused us to adopt that policy which true wisdom and valor must always suggest—to take a calm and deliberate survey of every danger and then await the freaks and frowns of capricious fortune. The goaded bull may rush blindfold upon his antagonist, but moral and intellectual man yields dominion to reason and judgment. If ever a resort to arms could be justified, certainly it was under these circumstances. We came to this land of adventure of our own accord—we came here to escape those who oppressed us at home, to seek an asylum amidst the solitudes and sands of an unexplored region—to enjoy civil and religious freedom. No care had ever been manifested towards us until the eager eye of avaricious and civilized Europe perceived or imagined mines of wealth in our earth, or sources of gain from our favored commercial and agricultural position. It was no disinterested generosity—it was this which sometimes induced Britain to extend a protecting hand, to foster and defend so long as self-interest should dictate; and if, in truth, our prosperity were the sole cause of proffering her assistance in the early part of the eighteenth century, why indeed did she not exhibit similar magnanimity in the latter part of the same period? It might have been expected that, possessed of numberless resources, boasting to be the most refined and enlightened nation in Christendom and overflowing with riches pouring in from every province of a wide extended empire, she would have given decided and substantial proofs of her intentions. But it was not her object to pursue a manly course; it was a contest for principles, in the support and advancement of which the pride and ambition of England were deeply interested,



and upon the total suppression of which depended our dearest rights. Instead, then, of being planted by her care, we fled from her persecution ; instead of receiving aid and protection at her hands, we grew by neglect—preferring even the savage wilderness to all the enjoyments of social life with the shackles of political slavery. A blind and devoted ministry, a weak and infatuated prince, a deceived people exasperated at our defiance commanded us in cold, calm, and dictatorial style, to submit. And submit to what ? To the whims, the prejudices and passions of misguided men—men who were utterly ignorant of the fundamental principles of free Government—men who had given practical proofs of incompetency to manage and conduct the vessel of State in times of profound peace, and were of course less qualified to direct and control her amidst the storms of war or the conflicts of party. The American revolution was produced by no one isolated event, but arose from a series of oppressions which prepared us to enter into that declaration of opinions which has since been and must forever continue the text book of American statesmen. The elder ADAMS, on the 5th of July, '76, the day after we became a separate and independent commonwealth, writing to a friend, says, "Yesterday the greatest question was determined which was ever decided among men. A resolution was passed unanimously that these United States are, and of right ought to be, free and independent ;" and this very hour, my friends, completes the sixty-third year since that memorable event happened—an event which will be hailed by future generations not only as the date of our freedom, but as the redemption of the human mind from the vassalage of custom. The associations and prejudices of



ages being then exploded, the mind has since made so rapid a progress as to astonish the most idle observer and exceed the expectations of its most enthusiastic friends. What bosom does not beat in ecstasy, what heart does not bound at the birth of an emancipation at once moral and mental! On this occasion, then, let the wranglings of faction be drowned amidst the shouts of grateful freemen. We should not be cynical, for it is a nation's jubilee.—Our country, though young in years, has outstripped the wildest dreams which imagination had pictured for her. Her canvass whitens the waters of every sea, her fruitful fields are smiling in plenty, her magnificent cities spring up as if touched by the spear of Ithuriel; renowned in arms, and victorious in war, she imposes upon none, and demands but impartial justice for herself. May it ever so continue! In the forum may honest conviction lead to truth and patriotism; at the altar may purity exalt the feelings; and while piety is breathing forth its incense of gratitude, let benevolence join its elder sister and enlarge the circle of our best affections.

It now becomes us to reflect how we may preserve that which was achieved at such an expense of blood and treasure by our ancestors. With all the advantages flowing from political and social independence, we may be tributary in a great degree to others for that which is requisite to maintain our character and respectability; or we may, in throwing aside the chains of political bondage, have cut off also the sources through which we derived mental nourishment. It is then an important question, have we provided for an American literature? have we endeavored to encourage American genius, to foster the infant energies of intellect, and thereby strengthen

our political fabric? When this shall have been effected, we may bid defiance to the taunts of ignorance, the hopes of despotism, and the reproaches of those whose object it is to excite a feeling of hostility to our institutions. Let us provide seminaries of learning, to improve the heart and cultivate the intellect, and our country will stand as firm as the tempest beaten rock which gathers strength and durability from the opposing elements. There is no truth more clear than that a people must advance in intelligence in proportion as greater progress is made in science and learning if they purpose to continue the privileges to which nature entitles them. Knowledge being the hand-maid of freedom, and freedom the patron of knowledge, they must be the basis of a nation's power; and upon such a foundation may be reared a superstructure at once solid and enduring. The tree will indeed be planted in our own soil, but its branches will extend to the uttermost parts of the earth; all nations may resort to its refreshing shade—Jew and Gentile, Christian and Mahometan, the enlightened and the ignorant. Its roots will strike deeper and deeper as ages roll away. The citadel of liberty will then be situated upon the hill of science and there too will the Gospel of Christ erect an altar to invite, to cheer and rejoice the soul of man. Unless, fellow citizens, you transmit to your children through these means those glorious privileges won upon revolutionary battle-ground, it will avail little to do so at all. The demon of faction soon rears its bloody crest to weaken the bonds of amity and divide those who are attracted to each other by the strongest ties. Under its disgusting influence men meanly ambitious of power, place and trust forward their pretensions to your favor and lay their claims

to your confidence. Under the robe of patriotism, they steal into your hearts and solace themselves with the idea of security and protection; while conscious of not deserving your esteem and regard. They seek personal aggrandizement at the expense of public utility and descend to low artifice and gross cunning to gratify a vulgar ambition. Having entered the arena of political strife before their principles are settled or their minds matured by study and reflection, they watch with eager and anxious eye the currents of popular prejudice—change with every whim—enter into alliances offensive and defensive—flatter the wayward humor and wild extravagance of party, and profess no principles which they may not disavow. This dissolute conduct of public servants and their hot pursuit of ephemeral distinction thus disarm ambition of its only fascination, and forbid men of real intellect, sound information and spotless integrity to solicit the suffrages of their friends. A long continuance in such practices must sooner or later eventuate in stripping its victim of every virtue. He roams abroad through the field of politics, acknowledging no guide but his own disappointed feelings—his fortune wasted—his mind weakened by dissipation—his power on the decline—his friends deserting their post and himself sinking into contempt. To retrieve his place in society he plays a desperate game—sacrifices the last remains of principle—panders to every vitiated appetite—intrigues for place—advocates error—recognises no system of action that is not expedient, and finally to gain a miserable subsistence, degenerates to a demagogue and verifies in his person the character described by the poet of nature,

Vendidit hic auro patriam, dominumque  
Imposuit, fixit leges pretio, atque refixit.



As small statues set upon great bases appear the less by their advancement, so the demagogue by aspiring to stations for which neither the qualities of his head nor his heart adapt him, falls into the more hopeless insignificance. Such is the wretched fate of that man who abandons principle for self interest.

It is needless here to remark that these characters begin too much to infest our country. Every patriotic citizen should hasten to strangle the monster before he become too powerful ; and the only way to prevent imposition upon the people is to enlighten their minds, to send the cheering beams of science into every corner of our land. Look through the page of history, and see what learning and literature have effected in every age of the world. In Rome, every class of society breathed its spirit. It was not circumscribed by artificial distinctions, but burned as strongly in the bosom of the peasant as the prince. Look again, and behold Rome herself, once the terror of nations, and whose empire scarcely knew any limits, behold her now reluctantly yielding to the superior civilization of Greece and acknowledging the fealty which mere physical power must ever pay to talents and cultivation. Look once more, and reflect upon the condition of Europe during the middle ages, and then ask yourselves what prevented the total subversion of all government ? It was the literature of Greece which came in time to save what had nearly been forever lost. When, within a very few years, the fire of freedom and the spirit of liberty, once more aroused the energies of the descendants of Miltiades, how many thousands, not only from this favored land, but from every section of the civilized world, rushed to succor the noble Greek. Then

the throne of the Ottoman tottered to its foundation, the notes of alarm sounded from one extreme of our country to the other, and a Spartan band rose up as if by magic to battle with strangers in the cause of equal rights.—Think you, fellow-citizens, that the mere prospect of gain, the sordid compensation of a few shillings was the motive which induced armies to spring forward at the command of a people strange in language, in habits and in manners? No! no! It was the recollection of her great and wonderful achievements—her prowess in arms—the milder glories of her civic career: it was the remembrance of her long line of heroes, sages and patriots which nerved the arm and inflamed the imagination of every generous bosom.

Thus we see how important it is in a merely political view to cherish education. Its comparative neglect among us has been more owing perhaps to bitter party spirit than any other cause—a spirit which is beginning to penetrate the domestic circle and to engender the most fiendish propensities of man. It is time to check it; and so far as my observation extends, no remedy can be more effectual than that of religious discipline. It softens all the asperities of our baser nature, and makes us charitable and forgiving. And what indeed are all the acquisitions of learning, the refinements of taste, the successes of war, and the well planned schemes of the politician worth, without this vital principle? Go to the lonely tomb of St. Helena, and ask of him who was at once the favorite and the fool of fortune; I say go and ask him what is their value: and echo will reply they are all hollow and deceitful. It is true that the greatest enormities have sometimes been perpetrated in the name of religion;

but it were as unwise to argue thence the impurity, or even the inutility of all moral doctrine, as to conclude that Atheism and Infidelity necessarily attend a free government, because forsooth these took root and flourished during the French revolution.

While the intellect, then, is cultivated, we should not disregard what is by far the most important—the improvement of our moral nature. An entire or even a considerable share of attention bestowed on the luxuries of mere animal economy, appears to the most indifferent profligate so disgusting that he has not the boldness to defend in theory what he concedes by practice. It was indeed the promulgation and open advocacy of this doctrine which branded with perpetual infamy the school of Epicurus. Though none among you, my friends, would coolly argue in favor of sensuality, and sacrifice character by an attempt to build Epicureanism upon a system of logic, yet I fear that too many, especially of the young at the present day, practice what they dare not preach, and make voluptuousness the god of their idolatry.—They gladly admit that propriety, if not religion, ought to be the guide of their conduct; but, in truth, the enjoyments of sense seduce them from the path of virtue, while every higher incentive is abandoned, and they submit to a moral bondage far more degrading than any other. With all the advantages of science and philosophy, with all the embellishments of literature and the elegancies of classical learning, if our moral nature be not governed, subdued and controlled by an unswerving rectitude of purpose, a man may become the slave of animal appetite, and a much less useful constituent part of society than the daily laborer who has been debarred of all the



privileges which general education bestows. How sad is the reflection that those powers and faculties which were given by omnipotence itself may be directed to ends worse than useless—that low pleasures should occupy and the vilest excesses debauch a mind capable of the most exalted conceptions! Without proper moral training for the varied scenes of active life, of what value will be all our attainments? They will be like the precious gems of the east, concealed beneath valueless ore; or if they strike they resemble the electric shock, which touches but to destroy. The man of talents who consecrates not its use to the advancement of truth and virtue, can neither be happy himself nor confer happiness on others. Nay, farther, he may by example, which is far more potent than precept, corrupt countless numbers; even as the noxious effluvia from the low grounds vitiates the atmosphere of all the surrounding mountains. Great endowments, if not under due subjection to those fixed and immutable laws which govern the moral world, can but render their possessor more wretched, because his guilt is the greater from having abused the choicest blessings of heaven. He resembles those noxious insects which draw poison from the flowers, whence also is extracted the purest honey. It is all-important in this age and country, to press these views, because we are becoming too prone to pay to genius alone those honors which when united only with other great qualities it should command. In a republic like this, it is worshipped; to it all bow with deference, and are ready to yield obedience. It is regarded as an atonement for the perpetration of crime, and a guarantee to licentiousness and irregularity. But let the blind devotee recollect that the

man of humble pretensions, who controls his temper, who cannot be induced by any considerations, or driven by fear from the path of honor and religion, is a worthier, a more exalted object than the most gifted intelligence united with vice and crime. Stocked with learning and having at your fingers end the most exquisite morceaux of ancient and modern wit, you may be cajoled by your friends and admirers; but you will still resemble the mount of *Ætna*, upon whose surface bloom and blossom the most luscious fruits of romantic Italy, while within the elements are raging, and soon boil over, laying waste the most beautiful prospect in nature. Thus it is evident that in every situation of life reckless indifference or undisciplined passion may thwart the noblest purposes and render useless every other acquisition. Are you then instructing your children, the rising generation, in a manner to prevent so fatal a termination to all your cherished hopes and anxious solicitude? Reflect a moment; of what value will be all other accomplishments if you nourish within them that pride which engenders a peevish and fretful temper, that love of the card-table, the gaming house and the brothel which will soon blast their health and prospects? Be assured, my friends, that virtue is absolutely necessary to ensure a tranquil conscience; that it can be secured only by diligent and persevering vigilance, that when once established in the firm and immutable principles of Christian faith, you need neither solicit the favor nor fear the displeasure of any. The consequence of our foregoing remarks is clearly this; when the disenthralled soul is translated to the residence of the wicked, the more exalted and refined it is, the fiercer must be its pains. Picture then to yourselves one whose

talents and learning have been acknowledged by the plaudits of his countrymen, ratified by the acquiescence of other nations. Perhaps assembled thousands have listened in breathless suspense to his eloquent discourse and paid a willing homage to his brilliant exhibitions of wit and fancy. Perhaps the wreath of victory has encircled his brow—perhaps beauty and fashion have bowed in deference to his claims and felt proud in their humility. Perhaps an aged mother—perhaps the playmate of his youth and the friend of his riper years—perhaps the sharer of his joys and the partner of his sorrows join the throng and swell the anthems of his praise. How intense, how absorbing must be the delight which results from a conquest so unlimited! And now suppose this gifted being expiring under the frown of an angry God and transported to a place where he can no longer be soothed by the syren tongue of flattery, where all that meets the eye or attracts the attention but reminds him of time wasted, talents abused, opportunities neglected and faculties misapplied. What, I ask you, must be the torture of such a victim? His greater susceptibility will indeed only make him feel more keenly the horrors of despair. May you then, fellow citizens, who have been fortunately blessed with more than an ordinary share of genius, so direct it as to benefit and adorn society.

By such a course of moral and mental discipline as I have here recommended, we may check the presumption of those who cherish the hope that our republic will break against the rock which has proved so fatal to others. The greatest danger to our institutions must arise from too much or too little excitement of the body politic; in different phrase, from faction or from apathy. The form-



er will be prolific of demagogues: the latter encourage our rulers to usurp power or stretch what is legitimate beyond all necessary or useful limits. Already have calculations of our existence been made. M. De Tocqueville, a recent French traveller, states that in less than one century our population will have increased to 100,000,000, and argues thence that such confusion will arise as must necessarily overwhelm us in civil war. He believes, therefore, that either there must be a number of petty republics as in ancient Greece, whose contentions will keep us in ceaseless turmoil, or that an absolute monarchy, with a central government, will be the result.—But fellow-citizens, the same predictions were made years ago when we had a scanty population, and the venerable prophets of those days chaunted to the same tune. Time, at once the teacher and the master of man, has disproved their wanton assumptions, and will continue to exhibit the beauties of our system in still greater perfection as circumstances occur to test its essential strength. When the country was wrought up almost to frenzy by the Alien and Sedition Law, when the heart of the patriot began to tremble, when every thing threatened sudden destruction and the rage of civil war seemed ready to burst over our devoted heads, the arms of reason at last prevailed—the constitution, that monument of wisdom and valor, that relic of virtue and sagacity, indicated its own means of preservation. And in still later times, a very remarkable instance has occurred of the elasticity of our system to reconcile contending factions and conciliate the most violent animosities.

*O fortunatos nimium, sua si bona norint!*

Fears often arise when our country is most vigorous and

healthy, as the very excess of prosperous fortune will sometimes be productive of confusion. Let us then never despair of the Republic ; for though our constitution undoubtedly has defects, (and what thing mortal has not ?) yet by a strict and literal construction, we can always at least prevent usurpation. That sacred instrument ought to be our constant study ; for it contains stores of wisdom and truths precious to every lover of his country. On its pages the speculative inquirer after truth may find theory reduced to fact ; those exulting in tyranny must feel rebuked ; the haughty may learn the value of justice and the weak may see cause for praise and adoration.—And permit me here to express the deep conviction that it will pass unscathed through every ordeal to which it may be subjected—that, like the glorious God of day who appears more splendid when contrasted with the clouds of heaven and strikes us more forcibly as he gradually enlightens the world and charms all animated existence—like him, the star of our prosperity will shine with redoubled lustre, to attract the gaze and chain the affections of earth's wandering pilgrim. Blemishes it may have, but they resemble those spots in the sun which became lost in its dazzling effulgence.

If unfortunately, however, it should be threatened, let every citizen nerve his arm and embolden his heart for great and noble action. He can never be employed in a worthier cause or lose his life in a more glorious struggle. The praises, the gratitude and affections of remotest time will attend his name and embalm his memory. He will be pointed to by the heroes and patriots of other nations as a bright example of virtue—as a model worthy of imitation. At the tocsin of alarm, let each

strive for the post of danger and buckle on the armor of truth to fight against error. If blessed with mental acumen, let him exert it for his country; if feeble, cast in your pittance, that it may not prove useless. Zealous in the cause, and unwarped by the rage of parties, unswayed by the madness of ambitious men, and content with the enjoyment of a clear conscience he may look abroad from his proud eminence, and see the troubled waters as they move along, sweeping away every thing good and valuable. With a mind above the reach of those low and vulgar passions which sometimes distort the best characters, he can perceive every danger as it rises, prompt to seize the first opportunity to avenge an injured country and redress the wrongs of an insulted people. Let him not repine at his lot. For his own satisfaction, he will recollect the singular reason which was assigned by Greece when she banished Aristides whose whole heart and soul had been devoted to advance her interest and promote her glory. He will recollect also the life of our own Washington. All his private and public virtues, his entire devotion to the cause of human freedom and his unceasing efforts to terminate with success an arduous conflict, had well nigh failed. The hoarse murmurs of discontent and dark inuendoes were abroad. His character was questioned, vituperation followed suspicion and the apostle of freedom had almost fallen a victim to the cavils of envy. To the reproach of poor human nature the truth, however painful, must be conceded.

When fame's loud trump has blown its proudest blast,  
 Tho' long the sound, the echo sleeps at last;  
 And glory, like the Phœnix 'midst her fires,  
 Exhales her odors, blazes and expires.

His name, however suffered but a momentary eclipse which only presented it in fairer relief and more charming colors when the mists of ignorance and passion had subsided, and reason had reassumed her reign. The privations, losses and sufferings to which he had cheerfully submitted, the pains he had endured, the detraction which he bore with a meek and quiet spirit, snatched from envy its cherished hopes, and rendered the hero of Yorktown the idol of a grateful country. PÆANS sounded in his praise throughout the land; and in the intoxication of the moment, we were scarce more devoted to freedom than its author.

Allow me, in behalf of my gallant comrades in arms, to address a very few remarks to those who are now honoring us with their presence, and who, from their peculiar station in society, wield a mighty power for good or evil. There is no alchymy which can produce so rapid, thorough and perfect a change in the materials upon which it operates, and nothing in nature which possesses such absolute dominion and empire over the heart, as an educated and interesting woman. The radiant smiles of beauty and the soul-stirring emotions which they excite in our bosoms, have effected more revolutions than any other cause. How vast her power, how secret, and yet how enduring her influence! She was created to act a very important part over the morals and the destinies of man. In early childhood, he is perhaps more dependant than any other being. It is then that the mother must determine her course, for then it is that the fancy sways the affections, and reason is too weak to control. The mind, plastic and ready to assume any impression, can then be moulded. Every virtuous principle should therefore be implant-



ed, every vicious propensity discouraged, and every avenue to truth and wisdom developed. Let all your instruction tend to inspire him with a proper pride; for it will keep him from vice, and make him shun a mean or dishonorable action. Tell him not to sacrifice his self-esteem for any object however dear, or any treasure however precious. Tell him it is not sufficient merely to possess good principles, or refrain from outraging the more ordinary decencies of life; but also to hold in contempt every thing which is equivocating or sordid. Tell him that integrity and honor are more precious than gaudy wealth or empty titles. Inspire him with that unyielding firmness and resolution—that peculiar national feeling—that regard for character, which rejects with scorn and repels with contempt every adventitious aid, and relies upon merit alone for promotion and advancement. I know it is a habit among the vulgar to suppose that woman is an inferior being to man, but it is an unerring evidence of ignorance. Read the history of the world, and can men produce finer specimens of bravery, eloquence, patriotism, benevolence or fortitude? And who have made more noble contributions to science, literature and the arts than Madam Lepaute, Lady Montagu, Madam Galvani, Miss Herschel, Mrs. Ibbetson, Mrs. Beaufoy, Mrs. Belzoni and Mrs. Somerville: besides a host of others in every department of learning? This continent owes its discovery to Isabella, who pledged her royal jewels to defray the expense of a voyage whereby she gave to Leon a new world, and to us this wide and smiling heritage. Away, then, with this stale imputation upon female genius. To the charms of person, therefore, they now add those of refined intellect and graceful manners. As a mother then, woman, by her varied accomplish-

ments, is now fully competent to her important task ; and well may it be termed important, for from her the infant receives the rudiments of instruction, and she too first implants in its tender bosom the elements of every honorable impulse. As a sister, she succeeds in chastening the more impetuous passions and leads unconsciously to the practice of those virtues which polish the sterner attributes of intellectual vigor. As a friend, the sentiment with which a young and lovely woman inspires a man of high and chivalrous feeling is pure and holy : it absorbs every energy of his soul—elevates his thoughts and throws a charm over every prospect in life. How consoling in affliction, what a solace in adversity to know there is one who regards with anxiety every incident of your life ! May you, then, my fair friends—the polished corners of our republican edifice—continue to cheer on the youth of our country to all to which a worthy ambition should aspire ; and may you reap the rich reward of so doing in the enjoyment of every rational blessing. Cherish with vestal fervor all the virtues and graces of humanity.

#### SOLDIERS OF THE RALEIGH GUARDS :

At the revolution in Mexico during the latter part of '31, or early in '32, many of the European Spaniards fled for safety and protection to the house of our Ambassador. The natives who had revolted because of the elevation of PEDRAZA to the Presidential chair, succeeded in their object, and placed their favorite at the head of the Mexican Government. Being provoked at the friendship extended to their enemies by a foreign minister, they resolved to attack his dwelling, and pointing their musketry towards the building would soon have levelled it to the ground. Mr. POINSETT, however, perceiv-

ing the irritated multitude, immediately assumed a position which commanded the crowd, and seizing the star-spangled banner, waved it aloft requiring protection for all under its ample folds. We are told the scene changed as by enchantment, and that the very men who were about to make the attack cheered the standard of our Union, and actually placed sentinels to guard it from outrage. Neither the history nor traditionary fables of any people afford a scene of such moral sublimity and grandeur. It is an event which should be impressed upon the memory of every youth, to inspire him with respect for his country, and veneration for her very name. He should learn to adore that emblem which protects him abroad, and by a singular magic throws its shield around strangers in a foreign land. Cold and callous must be the bosom which could contemplate such a scene without emotion. Imagine for an instant, that you were present when the representative of your country spread out the star-spangled banner, and subdued the harsh and angry tumults of a lawless banditti. Behold the crowd so lately mad with fury, now bend before the majesty of a free people! Watch how that sullen and contracted brow suddenly becomes illumed, as it perceives the Goddess of Liberty stretching out her pinions to the breeze. Under your vigilance, I am sure, the honor of our flag will be preserved untarnished, and you will uphold its sacred ark, should daring and licentious man presume to touch and defile. I am convinced that you need no incitement from me to defend that charge which is bequeathed to you as a rich legacy. Simply to preserve it, however, is not sufficient; you must transmit it to your children with all the improvements which time and more en-

lightened views of man's nature may suggest. Cherish with gratitude and pride the history of your native State. Remember that on her soil, in 1584, near three centuries since, under the guide and auspices of Sir WALTER RALEIGH, the flag of England was first unfurled; on the same soil, in 1775, the Independence of our country first declared; and, if the cause of truth and justice must perish upon earth, on the same, I trust in God, may be heard the latest groans of expiring freemen.



